

DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

January, 2002

exit exam scores Tops in the state!

Improvement on the South Carolina Exit Exam has been a goal for the past three years. Efforts have been made to infuse the necessary curriculum into our core courses and to better prepare students in the months preceding the test. This has led to significant gains in our math score, as well as gains in reading and writing. The success rate in math has improved from 82.5% to 95.2%! We have also witnessed a decline in the number of seniors who do not meet the standard by graduation. This past year the composite success rate for all three sections was the best in the state.



SACS Evaluation Process A Big Success

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the accreditation association for schools in South Carolina. This past spring saw the culmination of one and a half years of work and planning as a successful accreditation cycle was concluded. The process, one of self evaluation and renewal, involved students, parents, community members and staff. Strengths and weaknesses were identified and a plan for growth was developed and will be implemented over the next five years. A peer review team visited in the spring and validated the efforts of all involved.

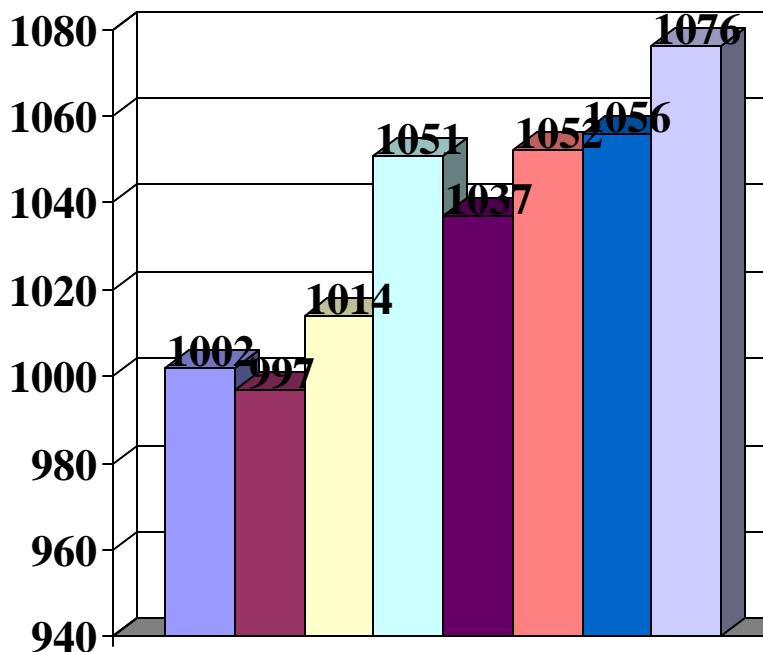
Highlights

- The Star Drug Testing Program was initiated in the spring of 2001.
- The on-going efforts to improve performance in the ninth grade continued with the implementation of the Freshman Academy in the fall of 2001.
- The spring of 2001 saw a successful conclusion to the SACS evaluation process.
- The first release of the SC Annual School Report Card brought the highest rating of Excellent to DFHS.

Enter To Learn; Go Forth To Serve.

School Motto

SAT SCORES 1994-2001



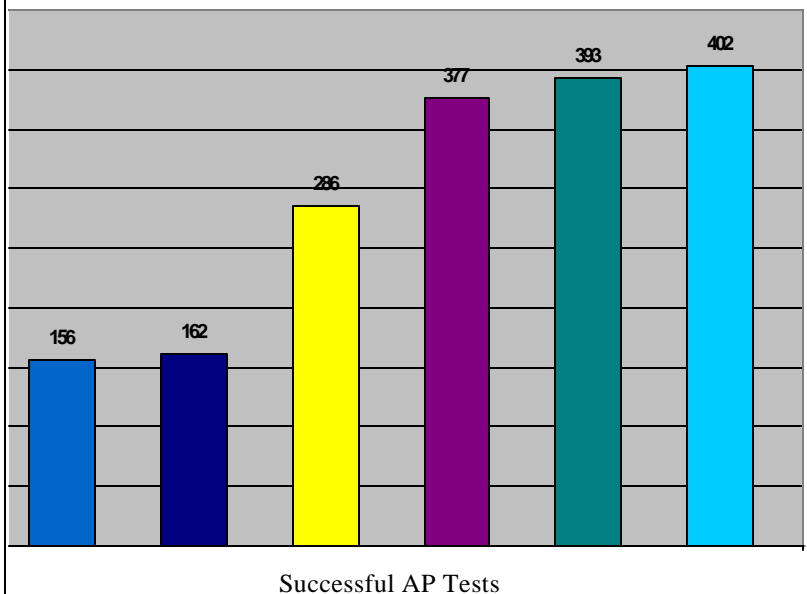
SAT SCORE HIGHEST IN SCHOOL HISTORY

The SAT is one of the two college entrance tests available to students interested in attending a four-year college. Therefore, success on this test translates into improved opportunities for our students after high school. Continued efforts towards appropriate test selection and better preparation have led to a dramatic increase in the SAT average score. The score of 1076 in 2001 was the highest average in school history. This score was also the third highest average in the state and more than 60 points above the national average. Improvement in this area is also a significant district goal. The average score for District Five ranks as the best in the state and Dutch Fork has the highest score in the district.

AP SCORE INDEX IS TOPS IN THE STATE

Advanced Placement courses allow students to take courses in high school that may also provide college credit. Students take these courses at a highly advanced level and are required to take a cumulative test at the end of the course. A successful score on an AP test allows the student to carry these courses forward and request college credit at the university of their choice. The policy of Dutch Fork High School is to encourage as many students as possible to take AP courses, feeling that even those students who do not pass the AP test will still benefit from the high standards of an AP course. The combined index, including the success rate and the number of students taking AP courses, placed Dutch Fork as the top AP school in the state.

AP TESTS 1996-2001



Mission Statement

The mission of Dutch Fork High School, an inviting family, is to insure academic, social, physical, and personal growth of all students by providing a challenging and comprehensive curriculum, effective teaching strategies, and a stimulating environment that fosters self-worth and motivates the continual pursuit of lifelong learning.

OBJECTIVES

These objectives are an expression of the desired, measurable end results for the students of Dutch Fork High School.

- ◆ Recognizing that actions have consequences, all students will accept responsibility for their decisions.
- ◆ All students will demonstrate ownership and involvement in the family spirit of Dutch Fork High School.
- ◆ All students will graduate.
- ◆ Upon graduation, all students will be prepared for the future in a diverse and ever-changing world.

STRATEGIES

- ◆ We will provide world class curricula to all students in a challenging and motivating manner, utilizing technology and interdisciplinary connections which maximize academic success.
- ◆ We will foster appreciation for human diversity.
- ◆ We will improve communication within the Dutch Fork High School family.
- ◆ We will ensure staff effectiveness to achieve the mission and objectives of Dutch Fork High School.
- ◆ We will create experiences, policies and procedures that encourage students to be responsible for their actions.
- ◆ We will provide a safe environment where students and staff feel they are valuable members of the Dutch Fork family.

Major Initiatives of the past year

Freshman Academy – Ninth graders traditionally experience difficulty making the transition from middle school to high school. The Freshman Academy assigns ninth grade students to a team of five teachers for math, English, social studies, science and study skills. This team approach prevents these students from being “lost” in the high school environment.

Twilight School – Concern over the loss of instructional time due to in-school suspension led to the creation of an evening suspension program. In lieu of receiving ISS students are now assigned to four hours of evening suspension.

Kit Den – As a strategy to hire and retain good teachers and promote morale a childcare facility was established for the children of staff members. Housed on site, the Kit Den

provides new mothers especially, with the security of remaining close to their children.

Star Drug Testing Program – This is a voluntary drug testing program for athletes that gives parents and students a vehicle for addressing the issue of teen drug use. Parents choose to sign their child up for this program and all results are kept confidential.

Curriculum Mapping – As part of a larger district initiative Dutch Fork teachers have been creating curriculum maps for all of our current courses. These maps not only provide teachers with a planning tool, but will ultimately be used to communicate to parents and community exactly what is being taught in District Five schools K-12.

Improvement Initiatives

The Dutch Fork Family is continuously seeking out ways to provide the best education possible. We are currently applying for recognition as Palmetto's Finest and for a Red Carpet Schools award. These applications encourage self-reflection and self-evaluation. Many of our initiatives are a result of this type of process.

Accomplishments

HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ The cheerleaders won their third straight state championship in the fall of 2001.
- ♦ The Science Team won the state championship.
- ♦ Nine students were recognized as Commended Students in the 2001 National Merit program. Six students were recognized as semi-finalists.
- ♦ Three students were recognized as National Achievement Scholarship Program semi-finalists.
- ♦ Exit Exam scores and AP scores were tops in the state.
- ♦ The Band was invited to march in the holiday parade in London, England.
- ♦ The Model United Nations Team won first place awards in the Winthrop Model UN Conference and the South Carolina Invitational Model UN.
- ♦ Dutch Fork students placed first in Division III and Division II on the Clemson Biology Merit Exam.
- ♦ Beta Club students garnered one first place two second places, and two third places at the South Carolina Beta Club Convention.
- ♦ Four students qualified for the All-State Math Team.
- ♦ Six teachers have now received National Board Certification
- ♦ Sandy Rickenbaker was recognized as the Time Warner Star Teacher and was elected president of the S.C. Association of Advanced Placement Math Teachers.
- ♦ The marching band made it to the state finals for the fifth year in a row.
- ♦ Kathleen Lu is the first Dutch Fork student to receive a score of 1600 on the SAT.
- ♦ The literary magazine, TAMA, was recognized as All Southern by the Southern Interscholastic Press Association.
- ♦ Four wrestlers won individual state championships and the team placed second in the state.
- ♦ Five students achieved National Qualifier status in the National Student Engineering competition.
- ♦ Girl's basketball coach, Anne Long won her 500th game.
- ♦ Athletic teams won six region championships.
- ♦ Nine students won S.C. Scholastic Art awards and twelve students were accepted to the S.C. Governor's School for the Arts.
- ♦ Melba Hawkins was recognized as region IV Coach of the Year for boys and girls tennis.
- ♦ Amy Warren was elected to the S.C. Beta Club Council and Jeff O'Shields was elected to serve as the S.C. sponsor-elect for the next two years.
- ♦ Seven students were selected to the Honors All-State Chorus.
- ♦ Seven students were selected to the All-State Orchestra.
- ♦ Five students were selected to the All-State Band.

South Carolina Annual School report Card

In the fall of 2001 the first school report cards were issued. High schools were rated using the combination of absolute rating and improvement rating on the Exit Exam. Dutch Fork High School received an "Excellent" rating, which was the highest rating possible. The report cards also provide other information to the community regarding the overall school program. Information is provided on the school profile, such as attendance rates, dropout rates, parent involvement, etc. The report cards not only provide information about how our school compares to all other high schools in S.C., but how we compare to high schools like us. Dutch Fork will strive to maintain the rating of Excellent, but in order to do so we must focus on the improvement rating, not just the absolute rating. This means we must continue to be innovative in providing educational opportunities for all of our students.

